

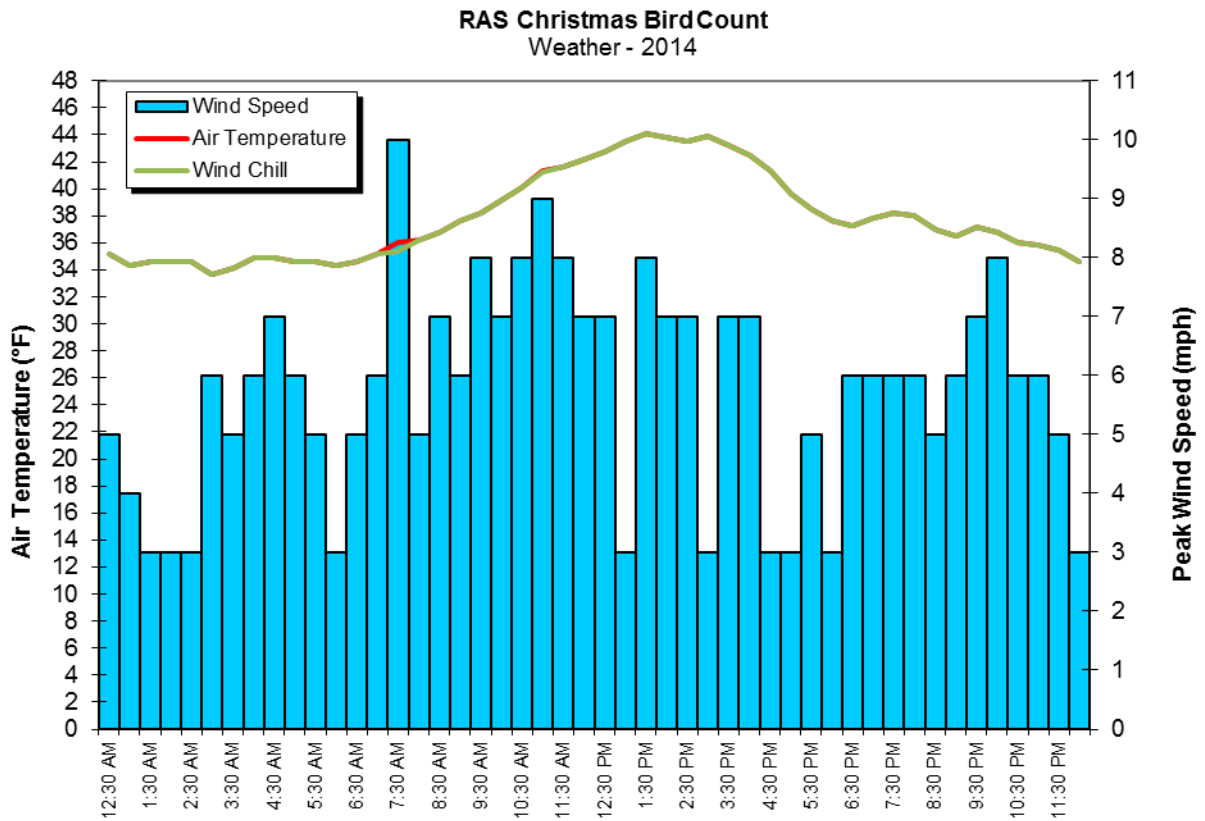
# ROCKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

## 68<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count Summary

Date: 12/14/2014

Thanks to all our field counters and feeder watchers!

**Weather:** Temperatures ranged from 34 to 44 °F with Dew Point temperatures ranging from approximately 29 to 32.7 °F. Peak wind gusts ranged from approximately 3 to 10 mph from the NNW throughout the day. No snow covered the ground and ponds and rivers were ice free.



**Field Observers** (41 field counters):

**District 1:** Alan Wells, John Tyler, Della Wells (part), Julia Warger (part)

**District 2:** Gene Herskovics

**District 3:** Frank Kemmer, Caroline McDonald, Joyce Greenwald, Rich Greenwald

**District 4:** Della Wells (part), Julia Warger (part), Joanna Galdone; Bonnie Koop

**District 5:** Peter Johnson, Zenon Bachir, Pat Murray, Karen D'Alessandri

**District 6:** Stephanie Garber, Michael Garber, Veronika Krause, Walter Aurell, Suzanne Barclay, Anita Gossett, Ronnie Smith

**District 7:** Carol Weiss, Ken McNichol, Bernie Doyle, Pat Lutter, John Lampkin (nocturnal birding)

**District 8:** Jim Previdi, Dan Albantides, Gene Brown, Ron Conzo, Judith Malo

**District 9:** Karl Knoelcklien, Drew Ciganek, Nena Bardusco, Marcello Bardusco, Tom Dow, Chris Healy, Vince Plogar, Frank Bonanno, Tom Harten.

**Feeder Counters** (8 Locations): Karen D'Alessandri, Vicki Beaumont, Jane Lampkin, Doris Metraux, Caroline McDonald, Donna Nye, Laurence Pringle, Tom & Diane Cunningham.

**Coverage (Preliminary):** 277 miles traveled by car, 42.5 miles traveled by foot; 50 hrs on foot and 30 hrs by car.

**Results:** The 68<sup>th</sup> Rockland County Christmas Bird Count was held Sunday, December 14, 2014. Forty-one field counters and eight feeder counters tallied 16,115 individuals representing 88 species (plus American Black Duck X Mallard hybrid). One additional species—a single Snow Goose—was found during Count Week. The number of species is about average for the post-1978 period (when count areas were standardized). The number of individuals counted is below the median count for both periods (post-1978 = 25,062; post-2003 = 20,149). The top five species—Canada Goose (4,238), European Starling (2,323), Ring-billed Gull (1,446), Common Merganser (985), and House Sparrow (797)—made up 61% of the total number counted.

### Some Highlights:

**Red-necked Grebe** – New to the count in 2014. Two seen at Piermont Pier, headed downriver. Searched for the following day but not found.

**Glaucous Gull** – Juvenile seen at Piermont Pier. Only 4<sup>th</sup> occurrence on count. Not found the following day.

**Short-eared Owl** – One seen in District 9 is only the 5<sup>th</sup> occurrence on the count.

**Common Loon** – Only 9<sup>th</sup> occurrence. Seen at entrance to Bowline Pond. Headed upriver after a small boat passed nearby.

**Wilson's Snipe** – Only the 16<sup>th</sup> occurrence.

### Misses

**Swamp Sparrow** – seen in 59 years.

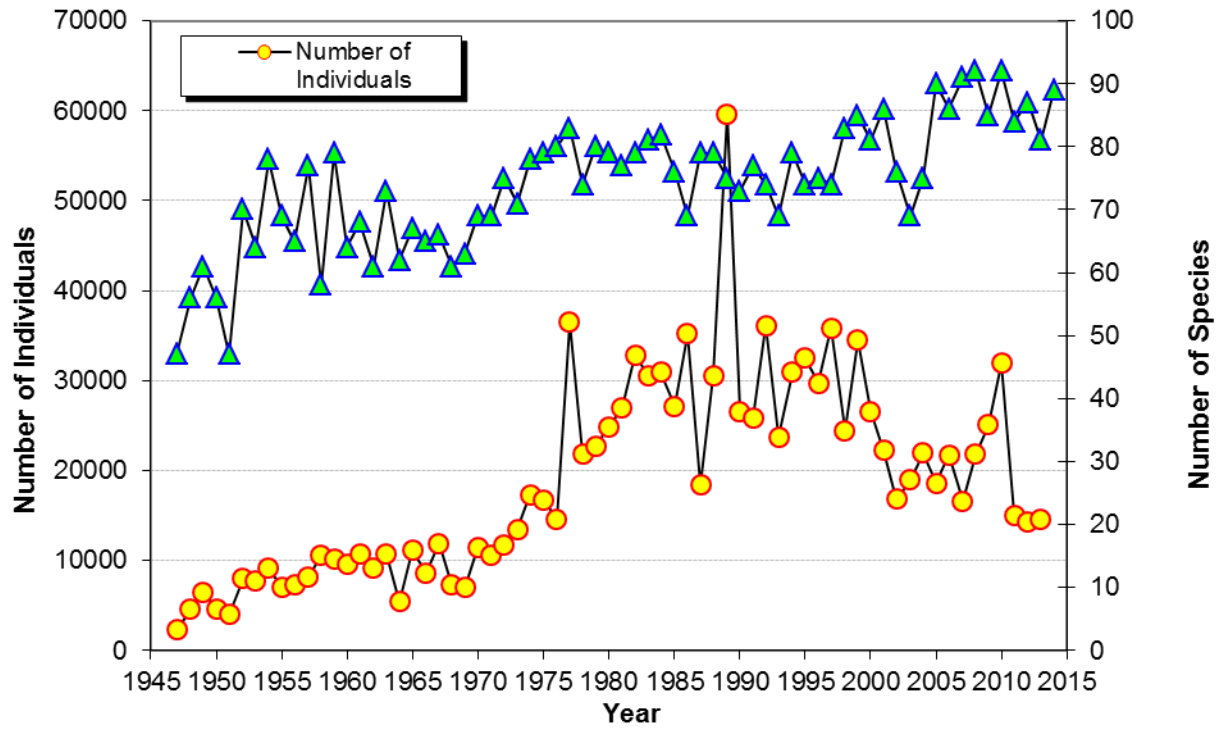
**Common Goldeneye** – seen in 58 years.

**Eastern Towhee** – seen in 48 years.

**Killdeer** – seen in 34 years.

**Ruffed Grouse** and **Ring-necked Pheasant** were again missed this year. Both have been seen in 40 past years, but are now possibly extirpated from the county. Ruffed Grouse have not been counted since 2001 and Pheasant since 1995.

# RAS Christmas Bird Count



**Photo 1.** Northern Mockingbirds were found in every District, 70 in all (Photo: Alan W. Wells).



**Photo 2.** While primarily a summer bird, Great Blue Heron are found almost every CBC since the late 1970s. Photographed at Haverstraw Bay County Park (District 1). (Photo: Alan W. Wells).



**Photo 3.** Bald Eagle continue their impressive comeback. This juvenile (adult transition, probably 3 years old) was found at the Stony Point Battlefield (District 1). (Photo: Alan W. Wells).



**Photo 4.** A sure sign that Bald Eagle are around are dead bunker (Atlantic Menhaden) found far away from the Hudson River. (Photo: Alan W. Wells).



**Photo 5.** Two female Hooded Mergansers found on the Haverstraw Bay County Park fishing pond (District 1). Nine were present on the pond. (Photo: Alan W. Wells).



**Photo 6.** One of the three American Black Ducks found at Peck's Pond (District 1). (Photo: Alan W. Wells).

**ROCKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY 68th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, December 14, 2014**

Common Name	Total	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	Years Seen	Previous High Count	New High ?	Current Year Rank
Canada Goose	4238	666	120	44	461	376	354	768	928	521	51	4401		1
Mute Swan	10	2	1			1			6		64	137		53
Wood Duck	1		1								34	42		80
Gadwall	28		21						7		38	189		42
American Black Duck	44	7	4						3	30	68	493		34
Mallard	677	131	81	10	8	174	2	51	132	88	67	2782		7
Black Duck x Mallard Hybrid	1									1	6	2		80
Northern Shoveler	66					60			4	2	34	133		30
Northern Pintail	3									3	8	4		66
Canvasback	3									3	62	4203		66
Ring-necked Duck	23	23									38	60		44
Lesser Scaup	1									1	1		Yes	80
Bufflehead	35	2				2			23	8	57	138		37
Hooded Merganser	75	15				3		27	29	1	38	147		26
Common Merganser	985	8	12		21	296	116	148	380	4	67	5700		4
Ruddy Duck	201	4				29			6	162	61	761		17
Wild Turkey	54		28	9	9		4		4		22	83		33
Common Loon	1	1									9	3		80
Pied-billed Grebe	2								2		36	13		72
Red-necked Grebe	2									2	1		Yes	72
Double-crested Cormorant	2									2	32	40		72
Great Cormorant	1	1									20	8		80
Great Blue Heron	19	2	1				3	6	4	3	43	53		47
Black Vulture	65	34	9	10	2			1	7	2	13	122		31
Turkey Vulture	78	5	1	8	14	22	6	3	14	5	28	74	Yes	24
Bald Eagle	29	13				2	1	8	1	4	37	44		41
Northern Harrier	2									2	38	5		72
Sharp-shinned Hawk	7	1	1			1	1			3	42	11		59
Cooper's Hawk	9	1		4		1	1			2	33	10		54
Red-tailed Hawk	40	1	5	3	2	5	4	10	2	8	62	68		35
American Kestrel	1			1							55	23		80
Peregrine Falcon	3								1	2	18	5		66
American Coot	68							7	60	1	61	304		29
Wilson's Snipe	1									1	16	4		80
Ring-billed Gull	1446	476	11			222	65	129	446	97	66	8922		3
Herring Gull	71	15				2				54	68	5636		27
Glaucous Gull	1									1	4	1		80
Great Black-backed Gull	23	15							3	5	68	458		44
Rock Pigeon	322	20	7	10		151	5	36	66	27	38	1027		11
Mourning Dove	259	62	17	4	10	58	9	59	8	32	67	750		13
Eastern Screech-Owl	20				1	5		3		11	52	22		46
Great Horned Owl	11	2	1		2	1		2		3	39	10	Yes	52
Barred Owl	4		2		1					1	19	3	Yes	64
Short-eared Owl	1									1	5	1		80

Belted Kingfisher	14	3		1	1	2	1	2		4	65	20		50
Red-bellied Woodpecker	76	16	8	2	12	10	4	8	4	12	44	118		25
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	8	1	3			1	1	2			36	5	Yes	56
Downy Woodpecker	127	20	14	1	13	7	10	11	13	38	68	187		21
Hairy Woodpecker	36	1	5	4	4		2	4	2	14	68	58		36
Northern Flicker	31	10	2	1	3	2	1	4	2	6	66	34		39
Pileated Woodpecker	7	1	4							2	58	10		59
Blue Jay	389	48	42	16	32	75	45	23	26	82	68	502		8
American Crow	368	44	133	11	15	70	16	22	27	30	68	38520		9
Fish Crow	3									3	40	86		66
Common Raven	15	3	1		2	1	1		3	4	17	13	Yes	48
Horned Lark	4	4									12	40		64
Black-capped Chickadee	285	32	26	14	27	47	24	16	25	74	68	579		12
Tufted Titmouse	216	30	17	17	23	30	26	12	20	41	68	292		15
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2						2				45	17		72
White-breasted Nuthatch	132	26	13	3	24	11	6	7	7	35	68	150		20
Brown Creeper	8	3			2		1	1	1		66	26		56
Carolina Wren	33	10	5			1	1	3	1	12	59	59		38
Winter Wren	9	1	4			2	1			1	63	12		54
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3									3	62	41		66
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2									2	50	17		72
Eastern Bluebird	12	3	7						2		30	135		51
Hermit Thrush	2		1							1	46	14		72
American Robin	224	19	28	16	4	23	2	2	2	128	67	1115		14
Gray Catbird	7	2					1		1	3	56	11		59
Northern Mockingbird	70	20	5	4	2	9	1	9	2	18	63	170		28
European Starling	2323	698	150	200	34	322	530	160	109	120	68	13665		2
American Pipit	26									26	11	32		43
Cedar Waxwing	15								15		57	415		48
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2		2								53	280		72
American Tree Sparrow	62	18	2					5		37	68	762		32
Savannah Sparrow	8									8	30	50		56
Fox Sparrow	7	1								6	58	32		59
Song Sparrow	103	39	12	1		1	1	10	14	25	68	322		23
White-throated Sparrow	363	53	46	5	9	71	2	30	20	127	68	587		10
Dark-eyed Junco	712	80	66	18	125	82	64	80	40	157	68	1224		6
Northern Cardinal	189	26	16	6	20	29	21	23	17	31	68	339		18
Red-winged Blackbird	135					5				130	68	4230		19
Common Grackle	1									1	59	8817		80
Brown-headed Cowbird	3		2							1	49	431		66
Purple Finch	5								1	4	59	158		63
House Finch	107	15	3	30		7	27	4	9	12	53	333		22
Pine Siskin	30		8						22		35	949		40
American Goldfinch	211	17	39	6	11	20	14	32	8	64	68	486		16
House Sparrow	797	240	7	25	30	173	157	8	72	85	68	1293		5
<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>72</b>				
<b>TOTAL COUNT</b>	<b>16115</b>	<b>2991</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>2412</b>	<b>1533</b>	<b>1736</b>	<b>2601</b>	<b>2440</b>				